

Utah County Childhood Immunization Study 2005-2006

In the fall of 2005, the Utah Department of Health, together with the Utah County Health Department, initiated a study of barriers to childhood immunizations in Utah County. The study was an extension of the Immunization Summit that brought together various stakeholders from throughout the state. Utah County was seen as a key beginning area for study due to its high rate of births and high proportion of children within its overall population.

Dr. Gloria Wheeler with the George W. Romney Institute of Public Management at Brigham Young University was contacted to help conduct the study. Dr. Wheeler and graduate students from her "Statistics for Managers" winter course organized the writing of a survey that would gather information on family attitudes, knowledge, beliefs and barriers to immunizations for children. Families who had children from 19 to 35 months were contacted to participate in the survey. Some of the major preliminary results are shown below. A full analysis of the survey will be completed later in 2006.

- A large majority (87.2%) of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their knowledge about when their child should receive vaccines was adequate.
 - Three-quarters (75.8%) of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their health care provider had adequately discussed their child's vaccines with them.
 - Less than one-tenth (9.2%) of parents agreed what they know about vaccines comes mostly from the Internet.
 - Around three-fourths (77.2%) of parents agreed or strongly agreed that what they know about vaccines comes mostly from their health care provider.
 - Few parents (12.0%) agreed or strongly agreed that their health insurance does not adequately cover vaccines.
 - Just under one-half (40.7%) of parents surveyed had incomes less than \$45,000 per year.
 - More than three-quarters (78.6%) of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that their child will likely be just as healthy without vaccines.
 - Few parents (1.3%) agreed or strongly agreed that their religious beliefs do not support the immunization of children.
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